THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

Fantastic Four

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢

A TITANIC TALE, TINGED WITH THAT MARVELOUS MARVEL MAGIC!

"BEHOLD! A DISTANT STAR!"

THE M.M.M.S. WANTS YOU!

THE FABULOUS F.F. ACTUALLY INVADE ANOTHER GALAXY!

"BEHOLD! A DISTANT STAR!"

WITH THE WEDDING OF REED RICHARDS AND SUE STORM NOT FAR AWAY, THE WORLD'S MOST COLORFUL QUARTET FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING ELSE! AND YET, THERE IS STILL WORK TO BE DONE AT F.F. HEADQUARTERS! AS OUR MIND-STAGGERING TALE BEGINS, WE FIND BEN AND JOHNNY TRYING ON THEIR WEDDING TOGS, WHEN SUDDENLY, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE TEEN-AGER BURSTS INTO FLAME--!

BEN! JOHNNY! I'VE SOMETHING TO *SHOW* YOU! I-- JOHNNY! WHAT *HAPPENED*?!?!

STAND BACK!! I'M FLAMING ON-- CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

SOME KIDS'LL DO *ANYTHING* TO GET OUTA WEARIN' A MONKEY SUIT!! --AND I DON'T *BLAME* 'EM!

IT MUST BE MY NEW *POWER-RAY!* I SHOULD HAVE TURNED IT *OFF* BEFORE ENTERING!

AGAIN, THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE AFFIRMS ITS LEADERSHIP WITH THIS EYE-FILLING SPECTACLE, WRITTEN BY MARVEL'S INIMITABLE *STAN LEE!* DRAWN BY MARVEL'S UNMATCHABLE *JACK KIRBY!* INKED BY MARVEL'S IMPECCABLE *CHIC STONE!* LETTERED BY MARVEL'S UNBEARABLE *ARTIE SIMEK!*

SORRY, JOHNNY! I'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT BEFORE THE WEDDING, THAT I'M AFRAID I'VE GROWN *CARELESS!*

JUST COUGH UP THE DOUGH FOR A NEW TUX, BOSSMAN, AND IT'LL BE OKAY! AND MEBBE THE *NEXT* ONE OUGHTA BE *ASBESTOS!*

WHAT IN BLAZES *IS* THAT CORNY-LOOKIN' GIZMO, ANYWAY?

TO PUT IT *SIMPLY,* IT'S A VARIATION OF A *POWER AMPLIFIER!* IT DRAWS ENERGY FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE FROM SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE CONFINES OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, AND CONVERTS IT INTO RAW, USABLE POWER!

THANKS A *HEAP* FOR PUTTIN' IT *SIMPLY!* NOW, HOW ABOUT SAYIN' IT IN *ENGLISH?*

HI, ALICIA BABY! COULDN'T STAY AWAY FROM YOUR DREAMBOAT BEN ANOTHER MINUTE, HUH?

IS *REED* HERE, BEN? I THINK HE SHOULD GO IN TO SUE! SHE SEEMS TO BE *UPSET* ABOUT SOME-THING!

SUE, UPSET? I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, ALICIA!

SUE, DARLING! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, BUT PERHAPS THESE FLOWERS I TOOK FROM THE VASE INSIDE WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?

I'M AFRAID IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN SOME *FLOWERS,* REED DEAREST....!

I'VE NEVER *SEEN* YOU THIS WAY BEFORE! TELL ME, SUSAN--- WHAT *IS* IT? HAVE I *DONE* SOMETHING--?

OH, NO, REED-- I JUST WISH IT *WERE* SOME-THING THAT SIMPLE!

IT'S MY *FATHER!* I SIMPLY CAN'T RECONSILE MYSELF TO THE IDEA OF HIS MURDER GOING *UNPUNISHED!*

BUT, *SUE!* HE WAS KILLED BY THE *SKRULLS!* HIS DEATH WAS PLANNED ON A PLANET COUNTLESS *LIGHT YEARS* FROM HERE!

AND HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO SAVE *US* --TO SAVE ALL OF EARTH! ISN'T *THAT* COMFORT ENOUGH FOR YOU?

NO! FOR, SO LONG AS THE SKRULL MENACE *REMAINS,* THEY MIGHT INFECT THE *REST* OF THE STARS AT ANY TIME! WHO KNOWS WHEN THEY'LL STRIKE *AGAIN?!!*

EVEN AS THE TWO LOVERS SPEAK, A SKRULL SPACE YACHT CRUISES THRU THE EVENING SKY IN A FAR DISTANT GALAXY...!

MY LORD, *MORRAT* --IS IT NOT TIME WE RETURNED TO OUR HOME PLANET?

NOT *YET,* MY LOVELY PRINCESS! NOT WHILE THIS *ANGER* STILL RAGES IN MY HEART!

BUT, MORRAT! YOU *KNOW* I LOVE YOU! WHY SHOULD YOUR HEART BE SO FILLED WITH RAGE??

IT IS YOUR *FATHER,* THE KING! HE *STILL* REFUSES TO CONSENT TO OUR MARRIAGE!

HE *STILL* DISTRUSTS ME! *ME*--HIS GREATEST, HIS MOST POWERFUL WARLORD!

WAS IT NOT *I* WHO ARRANGED FOR THAT EARTHLING TO DIE WHEN HE RETURNED TO HIS HOME PLANET?? DID I NOT DO IT FOR THE GLORY OF THE SKRULL EMPIRE?!*

BUT IT WAS A *CRUEL*-- A *HEARTLESS* DEED! OH, *WHY* DO I LOVE YOU SO??

*AS SEEN IN F.F.#32 "DEATH OF A HERO!" --STAN.

MORRAT!! NO! PLEASE--- DO NOT SHOOT THAT HARMLESS GAME! THE NATIVES OF THIS PRIMITIVE PLANET *USE* THEM AS BEASTS OF BURDEN!

SILENCE, ANELLE! YOU ARE NOT *YET* MY WIFE!

NONE CAN TELL WARLORD MORRAT WHERE TO HUNT, OR *WHAT* TO HUNT! I DO WHAT PLEASES ME! AND, IT PLEASES ME TO REVEL IN MY *POWER!*

LOOK, ANELLE! SEE THE STEADY HAND, THE PIERCING EYE OF THE MAN YOU LOVE! SEE HOW NOTHING THAT LIVES CAN ESCAPE FROM WARLORD MORRAT!

ALL I CAN SEE IS THE HEART OF A *SAVAGE* BENEATH THE CLOAK OF A NOBLEMAN! YOU *FRIGHTEN* ME, MORRAT! I WISH WE HAD NEVER MET!!

MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THIS ENDLESS, UNFATHOMABLE UNIVERSE...

HEY! NOW WHERE'S EVERYONE SKIPPIN' OFF TO? WHAT ABOUT THE WEDDIN' REHEARSAL?

WE'RE POSTPONING IT, BEN! THERE IS SOMETHING WHICH SUE WANTS ME TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST--AND I'M GOING TO *DO* IT!

WE'RE GOING TO THE PLANET OF THE *SKRULLS*--TO BRING DR. STORM'S MURDERER TO JUSTICE!

WHAT??! YOU MUST BE *JOKING*, REED!

I'M *NOT* JOKING, JOHNNY! WE'RE GOING TO *DO* IT!

RICHARDS, YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL *NUT*! EVEN IF YA FIND A WAY TO *GET* THERE, I AINT TACKLIN' A WHOLE *PLANET* JUST ON YOUR SAY SO!

I DIDN'T MIND TANGLIN' WITH THE *HULK*--OR *SUB-MARINER*--OR *DOC DOOM*--OR ANY OF THOSE *OTHER* SUPER-POWERED SCREWBALLS! BUT, A *WHOLE PLANET*--YEEESH!!

BEN DEAR, I *KNOW* YOU'RE ONLY THINKING OF *ME*! BUT, YOU MUSTN'T! I'LL UNDERSTAND! I KNOW HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO SUE--AND TO JOHNNY! AND I KNOW YOU'D NEVER LET THEM GO *WITHOUT* YOU!

Y'KNOW SOMETHIN', HONEYBUG? IN THIS WHOLE CORNY, CRAZY, COCKEYED WORLD, THERE'S ONE LITTLE BLIND GAL WHO CAN SEE THINGS *CLEARER* THAN ANYONE ELSE!!

TAKE *CARE* OF YOURSELF, BABY--'CAUSE YOU'RE THE *GREATEST*!

TWO DAYS LATER, BOOSTED BY A GIANT SATURN ROCKET FROM CAPE KENNEDY, AND FITTED OUT WITH A NEW THRUST-DRIVE MECHANISM, ADAPTED FROM REED'S POWER RAY DEVICE, A ROARING PROTOTYPE SPACE SHIP HEADS TOWARDS THE UNKNOWN...!

GOSH, REED--HOW'D YOU EVER GET N.A.S.A.* ITSELF TO GO ALONG WITH YOUR PLAN?

WELL, JOHNNY, I'VE DONE A FEW FAVORS FOR THEM IN THE PAST --AND THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO TEST MY NEW POWER THRUST-DRIVE ANYWAY--!

*NATIONAL AERONAUTICS & SPACE ADMINISTRATION -- *STAN.*

BUT, REED DARLING--THEY'RE SO MANY LIGHT YEARS AWAY! NO MATTER *HOW* FAST WE GO, WE'LL NEVER--!!

WE'RE NOT GOING THRU *NORMAL* SPACE, SUE! OUR FLIGHT WILL UTILIZE A SPACE TIME WARP--IN FACT--WE'RE ABOUT TO ENTER IT *NOW*--!

IF I SAW THIS ON THE "*TWILIGHT ZONE*", I'D THINK THEY WERE *KIDDIN'*!! HEY! WHAT'S *HAPPENIN'*--???

SECONDS LATER, WHEN THE GREAT SHIP STOPS TREMBLING...

NOBODY SPEAK!! IF I MAKE THE SLIGHTEST ERROR IN MY COMPUTATIONS, WE COULD BE LOST FOREVER IN THE ENDLESS ABYSS OF SUB-SPACE!

NOW HE TELLS US!

AND, AS THE LONG, TORTUOUS, INCREDIBLE FLIGHT CONTINUES THRU THE MYSTERIOUS SPACE TIME WARP, NOT A SOUND IS HEARD SAVE THE MUFFLED TICKING OF THE SHIP'S CLOCK, UNTIL--

HANG ON!! THE NEXT FEW SECONDS WILL TELL THE STORY! WE'RE READY TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN GALAXIES!

HERE WE GO!!

BUT, IT DOESN'T *FEEL* LIKE ANYTHING! YA CAN HAVE MORE FUN ON A ROLLER COASTER AT CONEY ISLAND!

IF IT'S *FUN* YOU WANT, BIG BUDDY, YOU SHOULDA STAYED HOME AND WATCHED CAPTAIN KANGAROO!

LOOK, HALF-PINT! ANOTHER DUMB CRACK LIKE THAT, AND I'LL--

HOLD IT, BEN! I WANT TO EXPLAIN THIS TO YOU--!

REMEMBER EINSTEIN'S THEORY --THAT THE UNIVERSE IS LIKE A BALL? WE'RE IN SUB-SPACE NOW --INSIDE THAT "*BALL*"-- READY TO BREAK OUT INTO THE *SKRULL GALAXY!*

SKRULL GALAXY

SUB SPACE

EARTH

BOY! GIVE YOU A PIECE OF CHALK, AN' A BLACKBOARD, AND THERE'S NO *STOPPIN'* YA!

BEN, YOU OLD PHONY, AS AN EX-TEST PILOT, YOU PROBABLY KNOW MORE ABOUT ALL THIS THAN *ANY* OF US DO!

LOOK! IT'S GETTIN' *LIGHTER!* WE'RE BUSTIN' *OUT* NOW!!

WE MADE IT!! WE'RE IN *NORMAL* SPACE AGAIN! RIGHT ON TARGET!

AND NOW FOR THE *SKRULLS!*

A PERSONAL NOTE: FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MIGHT CLAIM OUR TALE IS TOO FAR-FETCHED, WE OFFER IN EVIDENCE THIS PHOTO, TAKEN BY REMOTE CONTROL VIA A SPECIAL CAMERA, EJECTED FROM THE SHIP AT THAT PRECISE MICROSECOND! UNFORTUNATELY, THE QUALITY OF THE PICTURE IS A TRIFLE HAZY, DUE TO THE FACT THAT NO FILM MADE ON EARTH IS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED FOR USE IN THE MURKY SKRULL ATMOSPHERE!
FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS! ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE PLANET WE WANT IS DIRECTLY AHEAD!
CHEEE! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE THE SAME GUY WHO GOT LOST WALKIN' TO THE A.&P. LAST WEEK!
6.

MINUTES LATER, THE MIGHTY SHIP MAKES A SMOOTH, UNEVENTFUL LANDING, AND THEN--

REED--LOOK! AHEAD OF US! ARE THEY--SKRULLS?

NO, DEAR! THEY JUST SEEM TO BE A HARMLESS HUMANOID FORM OF FAUNA!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE A LOT MORE SCARED OF *US* THAN WE ARE OF *THEM!*

ONE OF 'EM LOOKS LIKE MY DEAR OL' AUNT PETUNIA--WEARIN' A BEATLE WIG!

BUT THEN, SUDDENLY--

SUE! YOUR *FORCE FIELD*--QUICKLY!! WE'RE BEING *ATTACKED!!*

WOW! JUST IN *TIME!*

BUT THEN...

WHAT *HAPPENED,* DARLING?

I DON'T *KNOW!* IT--IT FADED AWAY... AFTER JUST A FEW SECONDS!

DON'T *WORRY* ABOUT IT, KIDDIES! THERE'S NOTHIN' THEY CAN THROW AT US THAT A LITTLE BIT OF *MUSCLE* WON'T TAKE CARE OF! *MY* MUSCLE, THAT IS!

WHILE YOU'RE *FLEXING,* BIG MOUTH, I'LL START *FLYING!* HERE THEY *COME!*

FLAME ON!

OUR EARTHLING ENEMIES!! *DESTROY THEM!!*

SO! YOU KNOW WHO WE *ARE,* HUH? WELL, IT WON'T DO YOU ANY G---*UHHH!*

I DON'T *GET* IT! MY FLAME WENT OUT!! AFTER ONLY A FEW *SECONDS!!* BUT--*HOW??*

QUICK! USE YOUR *FREEZE-RAY* ON HIM!

HEY, *BEN!* STOP PICKIN' DAISIES AND COME A'RUNNIN'!! I CAN'T FLAME ON AGAIN!

I HEAR YA TALKIN', BUDDY BOY! HOW'S ABOUT TRYIN' THAT POP GUN ON *ME, CREEP!??*

GANGWAY!!! IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

WITH LUCK, PERHAPS I CAN LASSO *ALL* OF THEM AT ONE TIME!! THEN, WE CAN HOLD THEM FOR *QUESTIONING!*

STAND YOUR GROUND, YOU CRAVEN COWARDS! WE SKRULLS ARE THE EQUALS OF *ANY* EARTHLINGS! I'LL *SHOOT* THE FIRST ONE TO RETREAT!

GIVE 'EM ONE FOR *ME,* BIG FELLA!!

BUT, BEFORE REED'S PLIABLE ARM CAN FIND ITS TARGET, A STARTLING SERIES OF EVENTS OCCUR...

FIRST, THE MIGHTY *THING* SUDDENLY COLLAPSES UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE GIANT BOULDER WHICH HE HAD EFFORTLESSLY LIFTED JUST SECONDS BEFORE!

FOR THE LUVVA PETE! ALL OF A SUDDEN I FEEL LIKE A BLASTED *WEAKLING!*

WHILE THE INCREDIBLE ARM OF *MR. FANTASTIC* LOSES ITS RESILIENCY AND SNAPS BACK TO NORMAL SIZE AS THOUGH IT HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN!!

I-I CAN'T CONTROL MY LIMBS ANY LONGER!! MY BODY HAS LOST ITS ABILITY TO STRETCH!!

REED! THIS IS *TERRIBLE!* WE *ALL* SEEM TO HAVE LOST OUR MOST VITAL *POWERS!*

MEANWHILE, THE BATTLE-WISE SKRULLS LOSE NO TIME IN PRESSING THEIR SUDDEN ADVANTAGE....!

NOW! WHILE THEY'RE HELPLESS! GIVE THEM A BLAST WITH YOUR IMMOBILIZER RAY! *FIRE!*

WHIST!

THEN, LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS LATER...

TAKE THEM TO WARLORD *MORRAT!* HE WILL REWARD US HANDSOMELY!

BY THE TIME THE SKRULLS' IMMOBILIZER RAY HAS WORN OFF, THE CAPTURED QUARTET FIND THEMSELVES IN A STRANGE, UNEARTHLY PRISON--!

WHY CAN'T WE EVER WIN AN *EASY* VICTORY? HOW COME WE ALWAYS HAVE TO DO IT THE *HARD* WAY?

WHAT MAKES YA THINK WE'RE *GONNA* WIN THIS ONE, JUNIOR? WITHOUT OUR *POWER*, WE COULDN'T FIGHT OUR WAY THRU *YANCY STREET!*

WE'VE GOT TO *TEST* OURSELVES, RIGHT AWAY--AND SEE JUST HOW MUCH POWER WE'VE LOST!

OH, REED!! IF WE'RE HELPLESS ON AN ALIEN PLANET--!

IT'S NO USE!! ALL I CAN MUSTER UP IS THE POWER OF A COUPLE OF SOGGY MATCHSTICKS!

BUT HOW CAN A LIVIN' DOLL LIKE *ME* LOSE HIS STRENGTH? MEBBE I WAS JUST *IMAGININ'* THINGS! I'LL GIVE 'ER THE OL' WHAMMO AND MAKE SURE--!

WHAP!

DIDJA HEAR *THAT??* NOTHIN' BUT A PUNY *WHAP!!* *ME*-- WHO USEDTA NEVER GET ANYTHING LESS THAN A *BAR-OOOM,* OR AT LEAST A *KA-POWW!*

YOU JUST BARELY CHIPPED THE WALL, BEN! YOU *ARE* WEAKER, OLD FRIEND!

THE ONE THING I DIDN'T EXPECT-- SOMETHING IN THE SKRULL ATMOSPHERE HAS DESTROYED OUR POWERS!!

LOOK! WE'RE BEING *WATCHED!* IT'S ONE OF THE *SKRULLS!*

JUDGING BY HIS INSIGNIA, HE'S A *HIGH-RANKING* OFFICER OF SOME SORT!

HE SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO MAKE UP HIS MIND WHAT TO *DO* WITH US!

MORRAT! IF YOU'VE CAPTURED FOUR EARTHLINGS, YOU MUST TELL MY *FATHER!* THE KING MUST *KNOW* ABOUT IT!

OF *COURSE,* MY BELOVED ANELLE! I HAVE NO SECRETS FROM OUR NOBLE SOVEREIGN!

SLAM!

OH, MORRAT-- EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE WON MY *HEART*, MY *HEAD* TELLS ME NOT TO *TRUST* YOU! IF ONLY YOU WERE NOT SO RUTHLESS--SO AMBITIOUS--!

FOOLISH CHILD! ALL I DESIRE IS TO SERVE MY KING--AND MY PRINCESS!

NOW GO, MY LOVELY ONE! FOR I HAVE MAN'S WORK TO DO! AND HAVE NO FEAR!

VERY WELL, MORRAT-- I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY! BUT REMEMBER--YOU MUST DELIVER THE EARTHLINGS TO MY FATHER AT ONCE!

SHE'S *GONE!! TO ME,* MY LOYAL WARRIORS!! THE TIME IS COME FOR *ACTION!*

FATE HAS GIVEN ME THE MEANS TO OVER-THROW OUR WEAKLING KING! SOON, THE CROWN SHALL BE *MINE!*

WHEREVER YOU LEAD, WE SHALL *FOLLOW,* NOBLE MORRAT! TELL US YOUR PLAN!

WE MUST *SLAY* THE FANTASTIC FOUR! THEN, THE ENTIRE KINGDOM MUST LEARN THAT THEY DIED AT *MY* HANDS!

I SHALL BE ACCLAIMED AS THE GALAXY'S GREATEST HERO! THREE TIMES BEFORE, THE EARTHLINGS HAVE FOILED OUR PLANS.* NOW, IT TAKES *MORRAT* TO DESTROY THEM!

* F.F.#'S 2, 18, AND 32-- STAN.

AND SO, AS THE WICKED SKRULL AND HIS HENCHMEN APPROACH THE CELL...

THERE MUST BE *SOME* WAY TO GET MY EVER-LOVIN' *STRENGTH* BACK! MEBBE IF I CHOMPED ON SOME *VITAMIN PILLS--!*

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW PILLS TO GET US OUT OF *THIS* ONE, BEN!

IT'S ALL *MY* FAULT! IF ONLY I HADN'T INSISTED! WHAT HAVE I *DONE* TO US ALL??

DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, DARLING! WE KNEW THE RISKS!

DORRIE WON'T HAVETA WORRY ABOUT ME SHOUTIN' *FLAME ON* ANY MORE!

SUDDENLY...

LOOK! THE DOOR IS SLIDING OPEN!

HOT ZIG!! LET'S GET *OUTA* HERE!

HOLD ON, BEN! IT COULD BE A *TRAP!*

NUTS! EVEN A TRAP'S BETTER THAN JUST SITTIN' AROUND WAITIN' FOR OLD AGE TO POLISH US OFF! GANGWAY!!

STOP HIM, JOHNNY! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!

NO NEED FOR ALARM, EARTHLING! WE SHALL STOP HIM!

HAH! WE'LL STOP ALL OF THEM!

THE RANGE IS SET! AT MY COMMAND-- FIRE!

BUT, DESPERATELY, REED HURLS HIMSELF INTO THE FORE--

STOP! DON'T SQUEEZE THOSE TRIGGERS!! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TRADE -- IN RETURN FOR OUR LIVES!

SPEAK! AND SPEAK FAST!

YOU KNOW WHO I AM! MY SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW HAS DEFEATED YOU IN THE PAST! BUT NOW--I OFFER YOU--THE WORLD!!

SPARE OUR LIVES, AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET UN-LIMITED POWER!!

REED! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?? YOU CAN'T!! YOU MUSTN'T!!

YOUR PROPOSITION INTRIGUES ME, EARTHLING! WE SHALL HOLD OUR FIRE WHILE YOU CONTINUE TALKING!

NOW, PROCEED! YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN TRUST US!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE IMPERIAL SKRULL PALACE, WE FIND...

WHERE HAVE YOU *BEEN*, MY DAUGHTER? I SAW YOU NOT THIS ENTIRE DAY!

I--SPENT THE DAY WITH WAR-LORD MORRAT, MOST NOBLE FATHER! MY HEART WISHES WITH YOU WOULD LOOK FAVOR UPON HIM!

NEVER! I DO NOT *TRUST* HIM! HE HAS THE LOOK OF A MAN WHO LONGS TO WEAR MY CROWN! BUT, BY THE GALAXY, IT SHALL NEVER BE HIS!!

I MUST CHANGE THE SUBJECT QUICKLY, BEFORE FATHER FLIES INTO AN UNCONTROL-LABLE *RAGE!*

WHAT THINK YOU OF THE CAPTURE OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*, FATHER?? HOW DO YOU PLAN TO *DEAL* WITH YOUR EARTHLY PRISONERS?

WHAT IS THIS YOU SAY??? THE *FANTASTIC FOUR* --*HERE?* CAPTURED?? BY *WHOM?*? WHY WAS I NOT *TOLD?*?

IT WAS *MORRAT!!* HE--HE *PROMISED* TO INFORM YOU *IMMEDIATELY!!*

HE HAS TOLD ME *NOTHING!* BY MY SCEPTER, THIS SMACKS OF HIGH *TREASON!!*

COME! WE MUST *FIND* HIM AT ONCE! HE HAS GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME! NOW HE SHALL FEEL MY ROYAL *WRATH!*

OH, MORRAT-- MY BELOVED! WHAT HAVE I *DONE* TO YOU BY SPEAKING THUS RASHLY?!!

WHILE, IN ANOTHER AREA OF THE SKRULL PLANET...

SO! THIS IS THE WEAPON THAT CAN MAKE ME SUPREME!! I MUST HAVE IT! I MUST LEARN ITS OPERATION! AND THEN--I SHALL RULE ALL!

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D DO IT, REED! HOW COULD YOU GIVE YOUR POWER-RAY TO--TO HIM?!!

WE'LL DISCUSS THAT LATER, JOHNNY! DON'T INTERRUPT ME NOW!

WHATAYA MEAN DON'T INTERRUPT YA?? YOU'RE FIXIN' TO KNUCKLE UNDER TO A CREEP LIKE HIM, AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CLAM UP, HUH? WELL, I AINT BUYIN', SEE??

STAY BACK, BEN! I'M THE ONE WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS FOR THIS TEAM, AND NOBODY CHANGES THOSE DECISIONS! NOT EVEN YOU!

YOU--YOU'D TURN THAT ON ME?? ON YOUR OWN BUDDY? WHY, YOU DOUBLE-DEALIN', BACK-STABBIN' YELLA-BELLIED CRUMB--!

I'LL TURN IT ON ANYONE WHO TRIES TO STOP ME!! AND THAT GOES FOR JOHNNY-- AND EVEN SUE!! SURVIVAL IS ALL THAT MATTERS!!

MY DARLING-- NO--!!

SIS-- LOOK OUT!! UHHH --!!

BZZZZZ

QUICKLY! SEIZE THE POWER-RAY! TAKE IT FROM THE EARTHLING BEFORE HE THINKS TO USE IT AGAINST US!

NOW THAT I SEE HOW EASILY IT OPERATES, WE NEED DELAY NO LONGER! ATTACK!!

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T!! YOU SAID YOU'D *SPARE* US! YOU *PROMISED*--!!

REED-- WE TRUSTED YOU-- AND YOU *FAILED* US--!

THE FOOL REMINDS US OF MY PROMISE! *SHOW HIM* WHAT A PROMISE MEANS TO *WARLORD MORRAT*!!

I DO AS YOU COMMAND, WARLORD! BUT--WHY DOES HE NOT *PERISH*?? AND-- WHY DO THE *OTHERS* STILL LIVE??

BECAUSE IT IS *YOU* WHO ARE THE FOOLS!! WE *NEEDED* THAT RAY TO RESTORE OUR *POWER*!!

WOWEEE! WE SHOULDA *KNOWN*! OL' REED DID IT AGAIN! HE *OUT-SMARTED* 'EM!

AWWW-- I KNEW IT ALL THE *TIME*!

REED IS STRETCHING! JOHNNY IS FLAMING AGAIN! AND-- I CAN TURN *INVISIBLE* NOW, TOO!

I HATE TO BE AN INDIAN-GIVER, BOYS-- BUT I'M TAKING THIS *BACK* NOW!

IF *YOU* WANT ONE, YOU'LL HAVE TO BUY YOUR *OWN* LITTLE ERECTOR SET AND SEE HOW HANDY YOU ARE!!

THWOP!

SHOOT HIM! *DESTROY* HIM! DESTROY THEM *ALL*!

IT WILL MEAN YOUR *LIVES* IF ONE OF THEM ESCAPES!! DEATH TO THE EARTHLINGS!

THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HIT *US*, BROTHER, IS WITH *SPITBALLS!!* THERE ISN'T A WEAPON MADE THAT *WE* CAN'T HANDLE!!

FLEE!! NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND THE FURY OF HIS FLAMES!!

BAH! I'M *STILL* WARLORD HERE! MY REMOTE-CONTROLLED ISO-MISSLES WILL DEMOLISH ANYTHING THAT LIVES!!

NOT IF *I* DO A LITTLE DEMOLISHIN' ON MY *OWN* WHILE THEY'RE PASSIN' BY, BUTTERCUP!!

WHOOM!

NICE GOIN', BIG BUDDY! BUT *I'LL* FINISH OFF THE SECOND ONE!

I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO SPRAIN THOSE DAINTY LITTLE FISTS OF YOURS!

THEY CAN *STILL* BE STOPPED WITH OUR *DEMOLO-GUNS*, BUT YOU CRINGING COWARDS ARE TOO FEARFUL TO AIM CORRECTLY!

GIVE *ME* THAT WEAPON! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO BLAST THE ACCURSED EARTHLINGS!

DID ANYONE EVER TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE A VERY *HOSTILE* PERSON??

WHA-WHAT DEMONIACAL ENCHANTMENT IS *THIS*??!

WAIT! I REMEMBER! THE GIRL HAS THE POWER OF *INVISI-BILITY!* SHE MUST BE WITHIN THIS CONFINE! *BLAST HER!!* KEEP FIRING!!

I-I'M TRAPPED BY THEIR CROSS-FIRE!!

BUT THEN, A CHARGING MASS OF MUSCULAR FURY PLOWS INTO THE HAPLESS MARKSMEN...

IF IT'S A *FIGHT* YOU GUYS ARE LOOKIN' FOR--!

STAND YOUR GROUND! HE CAN'T DEFEAT *ALL* OF US!! *REINFORCEMENTS!!* ON THE *DOUBLE!*

SORRY, PLAYMATES-- I'LL HAVETA LET YOU *GO* FOR A WHILE! I HEAR *COMPANY* COMIN'--!

AWWW! NOW WASN'T THAT *CARELESS* OF ME! YA ALL DROPPED RIGHT DOWN ON TOP OF YOUR PALSIES!

WAMMO!

THEN, AT THAT CRUCIAL MOMENT, A STERN, COMMANDING, IMPERIOUS VOICE RINGS OUT--!

MORRAT! PUT AN END TO YOUR CLUMSY BATTLING! YOUR SOVEREIGN COMMANDS YOU!!

THE KING!!

HEY! HOW MANY ARMIES ARE WE GONNA HAVETA CLOBBER BEFORE WE CAN TAKE A BREAK??

STAND FAST! FOLLOW MY LEAD!

YOUR MAJESTY, I PRESENT YOU WITH THESE ALIEN PRISONERS WHOM I HAVE CAPTURED! GUARDS! SECURE THE CAPTIVES!

YOU LIE, AS ALWAYS, MORRAT! HAD MY PERSONAL GUARD NOT APPEARED, YOU AND YOUR MEN WOULD HAVE BEEN DEFEATED! AND YOU NEVER INTENDED TO BRING THE ALIENS TO ME!

FATHER! HE IS YOUR OWN WARLORD! HOW CAN YOU--?

SILENCE, ANELLE!

HE IS WARLORD NO LONGER! STRIP HIM OF HIS INSIGNIA! PUT HIM IN CHAINS! I BRAND MORRAT AS A TRAITOR TO THE REALM!

SO! YOU DARE TO FORCE A SHOWDOWN! VERY WELL!! WE SHALL SEE WHICH OF US IS THE STRONGER! DEATH TO THE KING!!

NO! THE ODDS ARE HOPELESS! WE WILL NOT FIGHT!

THUS, DESERTED BY HIS OWN FOLLOWERS, MORRAT FACES THE ONLY FATE A TRAITOR CAN EXPECT...!

NO! DON'T FIRE!! YOU MUSTN'T--!! I LOVE HIM! I LOVE HIM!!

ANELLE! COME BACK!!

SHE RAN INTO THE LINE OF FIRE--BEFORE I COULD STOP MY MEN!! ANELLE--MY CHILD!! WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU!!??

MAY THE GODS FORGIVE US!! OUR WEAPONS WERE SET! WE COULD NOT STAY OUR HANDS IN TIME!

BUT, THOUGH THE DEADLY BLASTS STRIKE THE EVIL MORRAT WITH FATAL EFFECT, THEY SEEM TO MIRACULOUSLY BE *DEFLECTED* BEFORE THEY CAN STRIKE THE WEEPING PRINCESS WHO IS DIRECTLY IN THE LINE OF FIRE!!

MORRAT!! MORRAT!! OH NO!! NO!

STAY BACK, MY PRINCESS,! I HAVE FAILED!! IT IS *BETTER* THUS!! LIFE CAN HOLD NO--*UNNHHHH--!*

MY DAUGHTER *LIVES!!* SHE IS UNSCATHED!! IT IS A *MIRACLE!*

NOT *QUITE,* YOUR MAJESTY!

YOU HAVE *THIS GIRL* TO THANK FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE! ANELLE WAS SAVED BY HER *INVISIBLE FORCE FIELD!*

WHAT.?? I MUST BE GRATEFUL TO AN *EARTHLING?!!*

THOUGH THE VERY *SIGHT* OF YOU IS REPUGNANT TO MY EYES, YOU MAY ASK ANY BOON OF ME! YOU HAVE *EARNED* THE RIGHT!

THERE IS BUT *ONE* BOON YOU CAN GRANT! GIVE US THE SKRULL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF THE PRISONER YOU RETURNED TO EARTH MANY MONTHS AGO!

FOR, THE VICTIM OF THAT INFAMOUS DEED WAS THIS GIRL'S *FATHER!*

THEN, I AM *DOUBLY* PLEASED AT THIS TURN OF EVENTS! *THERE!* THERE IS THE ONE YOU SEEK!

IT WAS EVIL *MORRAT* WHO PLANNED THE DECEPTION! MORRAT, THE TRAITOR!

AND NOW, MY DEBT TO YOU IS *PAID!* WITH THE SLAYING OF MORRAT, EARTH NEEDS FEAR THE SKRULLS NO LONGER!

IT WAS *HE* WHO CRAVED TO CONQUER EARTH! TO *ME*, YOU ARE ALIEN SAVAGES-- YOU ARE BENEATH MY IMPERIAL NOTICE! NOW *GO*--WHILE YOU STILL MAY!

THAT'S THE BEST OFFER I HEARD ALL DAY! THOSE GUYS ARE FOR THE *BIRDS!*

NOW THAT IT'S OVER--I REALIZE REVENGE *ISN'T* SO SWEET, AFTER ALL--!

WE DID WHAT *HAD* TO BE DONE, DARLING! YOU MUST HAVE NO REGRETS!

THE *PRINCESS* SURE GOT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK! SHE'S CRYIN' HER EYES OUT!

IT'S A DIFFERENT GALAXY--WITH A DIFFERENT RACE OF LIVING BEINGS-- AND YET--

IT SEEMS THAT AMBITION, AND HATE, AND *LOVE*, ARE THE SAME EVERYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE!

PERHAPS WE'RE NOT REALLY SO DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS--EITHER ON EARTH--OR IN THE ENDLESS VOID OF SPACE!

AND, THE DAY ALL OF MANKIND REALIZES THAT LESSON--WE SHALL COME A STEP CLOSER TO BROTHERHOOD--AND UNIVERSAL PEACE!

MEANWHILE, A TENSE VIGIL CONTINUES ATOP THE BAXTER BUILDING...

SURELY THEY COULD NOT HAVE FORGOTTEN THE WEDDING REHEARSAL, MY DEAR!

THEY'LL BE HERE, REVEREND! SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, MY HEART TELLS ME--THEY'LL BE HERE!

LISTEN! THAT DISTANT SOUND! LIKE A MIGHTY *ROCKET*--ROARING OVERHEAD--HEADING EASTWARD TOWARDS THE SEA!

A ROCKET? I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY LAUNCHINGS PLANNED FOR THIS TIME!

SECONDS LATER, THE GREAT SHIP FINDS ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE BENEATH THE OCEAN DEPTHS, AS FOUR WEARY FIGURES RIDE WITHIN A WHIRLING *VACUUM SPOUT*, CAUSED BY THE TORCH'S FLAMING HEAT--!

GOOD BOY, JOHNNY! I *KNEW* YOU COULD DO IT!

HE'S USING HIS NEAR-NOVA HEAT! CAN IT LAST *LONG* ENOUGH?

IT *BETTER* LAST, KIDDO! I AINT EXACTLY BUILT FOR *GLIDIN'*!

-*WHEW*- JUST IN TIME! I COULDN'T HAVE KEPT ABLAZE MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS LONGER!

I'LL SEND A FULL REPORT TO N.A.S.A. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! THE SHIP WORKED LIKE A CHARM!

YEAH! ALL IT NEEDED WAS A SQUIRREL TAIL ON THE AERIAL!

BEN, YOU'RE *IMPOSSIBLE*!

FINALLY, AFTER MAKING A SOMEWHAT STARTLING ENTRANCE...

HI, ALICIA BABY! DIDJA *MISS* ME?

ALICIA! AND REVEREND MILLER!

OH! OF *COURSE*! THE WEDDING REHEARSEL!

SORRY WE'RE *LATE*! WE, EH, WERE UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED!

YOU *MADE* IT! I *KNEW* YOU WOULD!

MY GOODNESS--!

THE VICAR *WARNED* ME THAT I'D FIND YOU RATHER-- UNUSUAL! BUT, I NEVER--

OH WELL! SHALL WE BEGIN?

20

MOMENTS LATER...

THE REHEARSAL IS GOING VERY WELL-- BUT, COULD WE HAVE A BIT LESS *NOISE*?

I CAN'T *HELP* IT! THESE THINGS *ALWAYS* MAKE ME BLUBBER!

HONK! SNIFF!

GLUB!

AND SO, THE WEDDING DAY DRAWS EVER CLOSER! BUT, AS THE FABULOUS GROUP PROCEEDS WITH THE REHEARSAL, NONE OF THEM SUSPECT THE DREAD DANGER WHICH THEY ARE SOON TO FACE! A DANGER WHICH ONLY STAN AND JACK COULD CREATE--AND ONLY THE F.F. CAN OVERCOME! DON'T MISS OUR NEXT GREAT ISH--WE'RE PRODUCING IT JUST FOR *YOU*!